UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1992/SR.17
10 June 1992

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 11 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BREITENSTEIN (Finland)

later: Mr. NEAGU (Romania)

CONTENTS

Annual report of the Administrator for 1991 and priority areas identified therein (high-level segment)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.92-70621/4560B

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1991 AND PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED THEREIN (HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT) (agenda item 2) (DP/1992/12 and Add.1, 2, 4, 5 and 6)

1. The PRESIDENT reminded the Governing Council that, before starting the high-level debate as such, it had already heard two important preliminary statements introducing the 1992 Report on Human Development and the report of th Administrator. Personally, he very much hoped that the concept of human development would become operational in the near future and he noted with satisfaction that UNDP supported the idea of organizing a summit on the topic.

2. Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development), referring to the major reform of the United Nations Secretariat currently under way, said that it included in particular the creation of the new Department of Economic and Social Development which he headed: the new Department consolidated five former independent entities and should be able to respond better to the needs of developing countries in the formulation and implementation of their development programmes. The risk of duplication of activities had been eliminated and all coordination issues had been resolved. The new Department had been entrusted with ensuring system-wide coordination of operational activities and with preparations for the triennial policy reviews and was required to submit proposals on the administration and financing of those activities as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/219. The new Department would be involved in the designation of Resident Coordinators and the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator system. It would also be responsible for research and analysis of development issues and for supporting all technical cooperation activities in developing countries. The General Assembly had endorsed the approach taken by the Secretary-General in restructuring the Secretariat and had approved, originally in its resolution 44/211 and later in its resolution 46/219, a reorientation of the modalities for United Nations system technical cooperation activities.

3. Governments were striving for more effective structures and ways of strengthening action in the economic and social sectors. In operational activities for development, they would wish to exploit the advantages of UNDP, as the central funding body for the system's technical cooperation programme, and of the specialized agencies. Under the new orientation, the tripartite relationship between UNDP, the specialized agencies and Governments must continue to be the cornerstone of operational activities. The "centres of excellence" of the United Nations system must be strengthened, as had been noted in the Nordic project for reform, and effectively drawn upon in support of national execution and the programme approach. Developing countries must be able to have continuing access to the expertise of the specialized agencies and their experience in the field of development. The Secretary-General had called for greater harmonization of the activities of the specialized agencies, of the financing organizations and of concerned organizations of the United Nations system in order to maximize the impact of the work undertaken in the economic and social sectors. At the country level, coordinated system efforts implied an enlarged and stronger role for Resident Coordinators. The Economic and Social Council would consider that question in July 1992 as part of its triennial policy review of operational activities.

4. As the twenty-first century approached, there were many challenges that must be met. The end of the cold war had, for the first time, created real opportunities for cuts in military budgets and for the resources thus saved to be devoted to economic and social development. The United Nations system should be in a position to assist the countries of the Community of Independent States (CIS) to convert their military facilities to civilian use and to intensify its assistance to countries with economies in transition. The Secretary-General had also requested the new Department of Economic and Social Development to serve as an information clearing-house for activities undertaken by the concerned elements of the United Nations system in the CIS countries. It was apparent that many countries in Africa would require significant assistance from the United Nations system over the coming decade and beyond. A substantial number of those tasks could only be achieved if the United Nations development system cooperated closely with the political departments of the United Nations and the new Department of Humanitarian Affairs. A good working relationship had already been established between the new departments: in collaboration with UNDP, the Secretariat had provided advice on electoral reform to Governments which so requested. It had initiated discussions with the World Bank, the IMF and the Emergency Relief Coordinator in efforts to alleviate the severe drought in southern Africa.

5. On the protection of the environment, the system should respond to the needs of the developing countries which, following the forthcoming Conference at Rio de Janeiro, would require increased assistance in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Department of Economic and Social Development, again in collaboration with UNDP, had formulated a number of projects which had been approved for financing under the Global Environmental Facility. In the demographic field, the United Nations system must increasingly assist Governments to control problems which would otherwise threaten economic and social progress and political stability. The Executive Director of UNFPA and her team were to be congratulated on having already integrated the new support cost arrangements into UNFPA's new programme of work.

6. Those arrangements were just coming into effect but the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, in collaboration with the Administrator, would work to ensure a smooth transition. The Department was in continuous contact with the interested agencies to respond to questions in that connection.

7. Mrs. SADIK (Executive Director, UNFPA) noted that the latest demographic projections had forecast that the world population would reach 6.4 billion people by 2002, 8.5 billion by 2025 and 10 billion by 2050. The long-term demographic future would depend on what was done or not done during the next 10 years. It was therefore encouraging to note that more and more countries were adopting family planning programmes, but the trend must be accelerated at both the national and international levels; it was thus essential that family planning services should be made available to the 300 million women in developing countries who currently had no such access. UNFPA's calculations showed that the cost of attaining the medium-projection fertility level in the year 2000 would be about $9 billion a year by the end of the century. That was double what was currently being spent in the developing countries on family planning but was a very small outlay compared with the cost of reaching

other goals, insofar as it represented only about 2 per cent of the aid budgets of the industrialized countries, or the equivalent of approximately three days of current global military expenditures.

8. There was no question that the investment would be very worthwhile, as was proved by the results achieved in those countries which had curbed their population growth in the 1960s and 1970s and had been better equipped than others to withstand the difficult years of the 1980s. The reason might be that the investments which produced slower population growth - in education, maternal and child health care and family planning and the improved status of women - had also laid the foundations for faster economic growth. In other words, contrary to established opinion, social investment produced a tangible return in economic terms and that finding should encourage Governments and intergovernmental organizations to give higher priority to social-sector activities. On the other hand, rapid population growth combined, as it frequently was, with extreme poverty was an obstacle to sustainable development, which was the goal of the international community. The means to end poverty and achieve slower population growth were often the same: the developing countries where demographic growth had slowed were also those which had found it possible to choose means of development which would not put an intolerable strain on their own resources and those of the Earth.

9. It should not therefore be a surprise that 9 out of 10 of the national reports from developing countries submitted to UNCED had stressed the importance of the population factor in the protection of the environment. It was all the more regrettable that, during the latest session of the Preparatory Committee, it had been decided to delete all references to family planning from the text of Agenda 21 which was to submitted to the Conference. The international community however had a long-established consensus on family planning which was reflected in texts that safeguarded the rights of individuals and couples to free choice of family size and to the information and the means to enable them to make that choice. That consensus should be submitted to the Rio Conference in terms which would also reflect the progress that had been made on the issue over time.

10. In the population field, family planning programmes had been developed and implemented for the past 20 years. The success of a programme depended above all on the quality of the family planning services available and of the information, education and communications services which accompanied them and which should equally be tuned to the variety of people and their needs. The active involvement of women was vital at all levels, including those of policy-makers and planners.

11. UNFPA had always been concerned to pursue strategies which best promoted national capacity; it had therefore consistently supported national execution of UNFPA-assisted programmes. The vital elements for successful national execution were: committed leadership; managerial and technical support; reliable financial systems; and appropriate advice and support.

12. Collaboration and coordination were vital in the population sector. The role of the Government was central and each State must give priority to building up capacity to coordinate assistance. That also involved the structuring of a more coherent and more coordinated United Nations system. On

the population issue, that meant that all United Nations agencies and organizations must be active in promoting a consistent set of population goals and that there must be better communication between the technical and operational parts of the system. In that connection, UNFPA supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to reorganize the disparate units of the Secretariat into a more coherent whole; in particular, it welcomed the creation of the Department of Economic and Social Development. At the national level, the United Nations system should assist countries upon request to translate the broad goals of the Fourth International Development Strategy into national plans of action which would include population considerations as an integral part of all sectoral plans.

13. UNFPA supported the establishment of national population programme frameworks. A joint letter from the heads of UNDP, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA had been sent to the staff of all four organizations calling on their field representatives to ensure better coordination in the area of maternal and child health care and family planning. In the implementation of UNFPA-assisted country programmes, the agency sought close cooperation with all organizations and notably with UNDP and UNICEF, starting with the harmonization of programming cycles. Cooperation between UNFPA and the intergovernmental financial institutions was also excellent.

14. On the whole, on the issue of coordination and effectiveness, she supported the conclusions of the Nordic project for reform of the United Nations system. In particular, consideration should be given to the suggestion that funding for operational activities should be based on negotiated pledges. The proposals regarding the role of the specialized agencies and the expanded powers of Resident Coordinators were also excellent.

15. Mr. CRUZ (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the 12 Member States of the European Community, emphasized the importance which the Community attached to United Nations operational activities for development which were also to be reviewed at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and during the triennial review of operational activities for development. The demands placed upon the United Nations system, and upon UNDP in particular, continued to grow. UNDP had already made a positive contribution through its management of the Resident Coordinator system, but much remained to be done as duplication and overlapping were still widespread.

16. The time had therefore come to consider ways in which the governance of the system could be improved. Improvement was certainly necessary in the implementation of decisions taken by governing bodies. In areas such as national execution, although UNDP was trying to implement General Assembly resolutions, other institutions had been less responsive. Clearer system-wide guidance was needed together with a more focused role for individual United Nations organizations and increased efforts by Member States in the governing bodies. With regard to the triennial review of operational activities, special efforts should be made to implement General Assembly resolution 44/211, which had set out an ambitious programme of reform, much of which had not been implemented.

17. Further improvement in coordination should enable every United Nations organization to make maximum use of its comparative advantage. In

Central America, for example, UNDP now coordinated the work of the various United Nations agencies through integrated area activities and participatory development, and was willing to repeat the positive aspects of the model in similar situations in other countries.

18. One area in which further improvements in coordination could be made was in the implementation of the AIDS programme. It was to be hoped that the dispute between UNDP and WHO on that issue would quickly be resolved. In Africa, which presented one of the major challenges, now exacerbated by the drought in southern Africa, the efforts by many African countries to overcome their problems were encouraging, and the joint meeting of African Ministers of Planning and Finance held in 1991 was an important landmark. UNDP should continue to give high priority to Africa, and particularly to the least developed countries.

19. With regard to the assistance which UNDP proposed to give to Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Community was not yet fully convinced of the need to establish a UNDP presence in all those countries. It looked forward to receiving more information on UNDP's role before taking any decision, and hoped that the United Nations would aim at a truly integrated approach in that regard.

20. In its Human Development Report, UNDP had for the past three years extensively studied the link between sustainable development and a broad-based development model. The Member States of the European Community had always supported the publication of that report and would continue to do so, as human development was an integral part of the overall development process. The three reports published so far were a valuable source of information which contributed to the cause of development, and were an area in which UNDP had demonstrated its genuine comparative advantage. Some countries had difficulty in subscribing to some elements of the 1992 report and the Member States of the European Community, too, had found points with which they were unable to agree. However, such differences of opinion should encourage open discussion. That was the best way of making progress in the conceptual debate on development. The Human Development Report had an essential catalytic role.

21. UNDP should continue to give high priority to environmental issues and would certainly have an important contribution to make in implementing the outcome of UNCED. The Council would have to consider that role carefully, bearing in mind its comparative advantages.

22. The full participation of women, as well as men, in the development process should be ensured. While there was a growing involvement of women in that process, much remained to be done, not least by UNDP.

23. Mr. MACHIN (United Kingdom) said that if the United Nations system was to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond, it should lose no opportunity to maintain the reform momentum already achieved, for example, with the Nordic project and the Secretary-General's initiative. Reforms had also been introduced in the Economic and Social Council, and its session in July 1992 would provide a further opportunity of continuing the process. Each governing body should improve its own agency performance, and coordination and

streamlining within the system should be pursued. UNDP occupied a central position in that system and had a major task before it if the perceived marginalization of the United Nations in development was to be reversed.

24. UNDP should first be restored at the centre of United Nations technical assistance, working closely with the World Bank, and should become the main focus of multilateral technical assistance funding. It should then expand its human development activities, particularly in the developing countries. To that end, it would have to revitalize its approach to aid delivery and coordination at the field level. In order to attain those goals, UNDP should first define its role in relation to the financing institutions, particularly the World Bank.

25. UNDP's greater emphasis on capacity-building was welcome. However, it should be clear in its objectives and able to demonstrate its effectiveness. To that end it needed to be imaginative and to work closely with non-governmental organizations and local groups as well as national Governments. It should not be afraid to limit its activities, as partial success was better than comprehensive failure.

26. The Resident Coordinator was the best means of coordinating United Nations assistance at the field level. UNDP should therefore continue to strengthen the calibre of its Resident Representatives.

27. With regard to the programme approach, the emphasis on the development of national development plans in which priorities were set by the developing countries themselves was welcome. However, cross-sectoral issues should not be lost sight of in the process. The six themes were important to many developing countries and efforts should be made to ensure that they were properly reflected in national plans. There should also be greater emphasis on good government and a redefinition of UNDP's role in the fight against AIDS. UNDP should also continue to encourage a more technical focus by the specialized agencies, and consider how it might collaborate with the non-governmental organizations in its grass-roots activities, a subject which was known to be high on the Secretary-General's own agenda. Programming should also be improved and a linkage established between global priorities and country programmes. The Human Development Report was recognized as an essential tool by many Governments and non-governmental organizations and, as such, it had contributed significantly to enhancing UNDP's reputation and to the international development debate. The Human Development Report team should therefore continue its work in the same independent manner as in the past. Lastly, there was a need to improve performance in UNDP programmes through more careful evaluation.

28. Those important objectives were unlikely to be achieved unless UNDP had a lean and efficient management structure. The Administrator was to be congratulated on his moves so far in that direction. The Secretary-General, too, had started to introduce reforms at the more senior levels in the United Nations Secretariat. It was to be hoped that a constructive dialogue could be established between the Administrator and the Secretary-General on the one hand and member nations on the other, in order to pursue those organizational changes.

29. UNDP was the product of its member States, whose duty it was to ensure that it worked effectively in the interests of all. To that end the Governing Council should govern more effectively, concentrate on important policy issues and give the Administrator clear strategic guidance, delegating less important matters elsewhere. It should therefore first be ensured that the Standing Committee on Programme Matters functioned more effectively. The members should also rationalize their work by operating increasingly on a biennial or triennial basis. Moreover, they should be selective and resist the temptation to focus on areas outside UNDP's primary objectives and comparative advantage, such as the development and environmental activities likely to follow the Rio Summit.

30. A three- or four-week governing body session would not be tolerated in the private sector. The adage that time was money applied equally to UNDP, and should be borne in mind if member States wished to correct the deficiencies responsible for its marginalization. However, the consensual approach of UNDP was invaluable and, while individual interests were important, it was implicit in that approach that the greater good should prevail. The United Kingdom Government would continue to give firm support to the programme.

31. Mr. Neagu (Romania) took the Chair.

32. Mr. MERSON (World Health Organization) said that, since the beginning of the pandemic, 10 to 12 million adults had been infected with HIV and 2 million of them had developed AIDS. Sub-Saharan Africa was the most heavily infected area, but the pandemic was continuing to spread throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the eastern Mediterranean region. There was no doubt that the pandemic was truly global at the present time. According to projections, by the year 2000 there would be 30 to 40 million persons infected with HIV and 12 to 18 million with AIDS. As a result of their declining immune status, at least 5 million of the latter would develop tuberculosis, which would result in the spread of that disease throughout the population. To the direct costs of providing health care must be added the indirect costs resulting from the loss of young, trained manpower. Unlike other fatal diseases, AIDS took its toll mainly on men and women in the prime of life.

33. AIDS spread primarily through heterosexual intercourse even if it could also be transmitted in other ways. It was therefore necessary to provide education on safer sexual behaviour and ensure access to condoms. It was essential to strengthen activities for the diagnosis and cure of other sexually transmitted diseases which considerably facilitated the transmission of HIV. It was also essential to maintain a safe blood supply and to prevent infection in women of child-bearing age. Lastly, stress should be placed on the provision of community-based health care and social support for infected persons.

34. Those prevention, care and support activities needed to be undertaken together in order to be effective. Family members of AIDS patients must know how the disease was spread so that they would not abandon their relatives out of fear that they themselves would become infected. There was also a need to help Governments to deal with the growing social and economic consequences of

the pandemic and, in that regard, WHO had a major role to play, since knowledge about AIDS and its epidemiology was essential for understanding its developmental impact and for planning the measures to be taken.

35. Under its Global Programme on AIDS, WHO provided technical guidance to all countries requesting it and assisted in policy formulation in that field. During the past year, it had evolved a consensus on approaches for the prevention of HIV infection during surgery and dentistry and on the transmission of the virus through breast-feeding. WHO was also seeking to draw lessons from the preventive measures already taken. It accorded high priority to biomedical and epidemiological research efforts and, in collaboration with the Division of Global and Interregional Programmes of UNDP and the pharmaceutical industry, it was studying ways of ensuring universal access to any AIDS vaccines that might be developed. It was continuing to give high priority to efforts to prevent discrimination against HIV-infected persons, since there was abundant evidence that such measures as mandatory testing and quarantine could not stop the spread of the disease. It had made efforts to enlist the support of national leaders in the fight against AIDS, since it was convinced that the greatest danger in that regard was denial. At the end of 1991, the Heads of State of the Commonwealth countries had pledged increased political commitment to the fight against AIDS and in June 1992 the OAU heads of Government were expected to adopt an action programme on AIDS. Those high-level commitments were necessary in order to bring about the required multisectoral response.

36. The United Nations bodies should therefore intensify and coordinate their activities at all levels. Accordingly, WHO welcomed the fact that the UNDP Administrator had referred to the need for a unified response to the pandemic. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions, WHO had set up a number of global mechanisms to fight against AIDS and was convinced that the involvement of other specialized agencies, such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, and the United Nations Volunteers, was essential to deal with all aspects of the pandemic. It was particularly important to ensure that close coordination existed at the country level, the best approach being the WHO/UNDP Alliance signed in 1988. In the fight against AIDS, UNDP's support to the health sector was as important as WHO's technical input in other sectors.

37. In response to comments made by Mr. Cruz on behalf of the European Community, he said that WHO and UNDP were currently working to modify the operational procedures for implementation of the Alliance in order to take account of UNDP's new emphasis on national execution. WHO welcomed UNDP's support for national AIDS programmes, which in 1991 had amounted to $5.6 million for 22 country programmes. There were also possibilities for enhanced collaboration at the global and regional levels, for example by the secondment of staff or the undertaking of joint initiatives. The important discussions on the restructuring of the United Nations should not lead to any slackening of efforts to respond to the AIDS pandemic. It was also necessary to ensure, within the framework of the Alliance, the integration of national AIDS programmes into the UNDP and WHO programmes.

38. Mrs. LØJ (Denmark) welcomed, first of all, the changes that had been made over the past two years in the regulatory framework of UNDP and observed that the time had come to concentrate on the implementation of that framework, both at headquarters and in the field.

39. The development of human resources was at the heart of the development process. It affected all sections of the population, including the most vulnerable groups, such as the disabled. It was also a means to maximize a country's creative and productive resources. That was not possible without the existence of national capacity-building. To that end, UNDP's neutrality and universality enabled it to provide valuable assistance, at both the governmental and local levels. Such assistance enabled the recipient countries to engage in a fruitful dialogue with the donor community, which was all the more important since the latter attached increasing importance to respect for human rights.

40. The country programmes submitted at the current session bore evidence of the shift to a programme approach and of a concentration on the six themes of the fifth programming cycle. That shift was to be welcomed. However, much still remained to be done, in particular at the local level. First of all, it was essential to give a better understanding of the new structure and the guidelines for implementation. Secondly, when it was a question of staffing the field offices, account must be taken of the shift to active participation. Thirdly, the role of the various parties concerned in that area, in particular the multilateral organizations, must be very carefully defined.

41. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/211, UNDP had undertaken to reorient its activities and it was more important than ever for the Programme to play its specific role in the development system. Donor countries preferred to channel their multilateral resources through the organizations they considered to be most effective. In order for development aid to be as effective as possible, the activities of donors and national authorities should be perfectly coordinated. It was therefore very important to maintain close contact with the World Bank, regional banks and specialized agencies both at headquarters and in the field. In that regard, she requested the Administrator to submit a more detailed report on the coordination undertaken so far and on the results obtained.

42. In 1991, dramatic changes had continued to take place in Central and Eastern Europe, with many positive results. Some of the new States which had thus emerged had become UNDP members with recipient status, in accordance with the criteria defined for the fifth programming cycle. Her Government recognized that it was important to support those countries in their difficult stage of transition but considered that that should not result in a change in the Programme's orientation and that assistance must be aimed first and foremost at the poorest developing countries. That was the policy which the Danish Government had followed, since the assistance granted to the European countries in transition was over and above the allocation of 1 per cent of the Danish GNP to international development assistance. The new trust fund for the Baltic States established by the Administrator was an appropriate way of raising additional funds, and her Government was considering the possibility of contributing to it. Since the IPFs of the countries of Central and Eastern

Europe would be relatively small, UNDP would have to play an essentially catalytic role in that region. It was therefore important to coordinate the activities of UNDP and the United Nations. In the field, all United Nations organizations and specialized agencies should have joint offices and utilize their respective comparative advantages with enhanced cost-effectiveness. Her Government would therefore welcome a detailed report dealing not only with the role of UNDP in Central and Eastern Europe but also with its relations with other United Nations bodies, including the issue of common premises.

43. Denmark appreciated the role played by the Resident Coordinators in channelling international aid in emergency situations. The workload of UNDP field offices had increased considerably as a result and, in view of the stagnation of voluntary contributions, it was essential to find a way for those expenses to be more evenly shared among the organizations involved.

44. She agreed with the Administrator that UNDP should also concentrate on development activities, leaving emergency activities to others. In emergencies, UNDP's role was to assist the relevant national institutions in incorporating the necessary preventive measures in their development plans.

45. The Human Development Reports constituted an important contribution to the development process. They showed clearly the economic disparities in the world and brought the human factor to the fore. They had made it possible to introduce human resources development in national and international development planning and had thus changed the perception of UNDP from a development programme to the human resources development programme. Those reports had been widely quoted and had greatly stimulated the debate on new issues in the development process. Denmark strongly supported the continuation of that work and thought that UNDP should be able to introduce new instruments for measuring development in the context of human development. However, it would be useful to refine further some of the data presented, since the credibility of a report would depend on the reliability of the data used. Even if, like many other delegations, her delegation did not always agree with the conclusions or suggestions of those reports, the important thing was that they existed.

46. No lasting peace could be achieved so long as the rich and the poor were separated by vast disparities, at both the international and national levels. The United Nations system could only realize its full potential in that field if it adapted to the realities of the day. She therefore welcomed the reform process launched and regarded as extremely encouraging the fact that the Administrator had expressed so frankly his ideas on how to reform the United Nations system. One of the recommendations of the project submitted by the Nordic countries dealt with changes in governance and financing of the major United Nations funds and programmes. If the United Nations organizations failed to concentrate on areas in which they had comparative advantages and to cooperate with other multilateral organizations, they would be unable to meet the development needs of the 1990s, which would lead to stagnation of development activities within the United Nations system.

47. Mr. KANOME (Observer for Albania) said that the new democratic Government of Albania had inherited an extremely serious economic situation, in a country which was nevertheless rich in natural resources and also had a not

inconsiderable human potential. In order to build up a market-economy, democratic State, the Government had to restructure the economy, the education system and scientific research and, above all, change the mentality of the people, all of which necessitated substantial assistance from outside. Under the Communist regime, UNDP had undertaken major projects in Albania which had contributed to the progress made by the Albanian people and recently the Management Development Programme had established more clearly the reforms necessary for the transition to a market economy. Albania's urgent need was for coherent technical assistance on the training and retraining of young specialists and the modernization of scientific research, with a view to its more effective integration in industry. The physical presence of UNDP was a matter of great importance in countries in transition, as was evident from the programme of work of the field office which had been opened in Tirana in 1991.

48. To overcome its difficulties, Albania had appealed to the developed countries and negotiations were in hand with the IMF, the World Bank and other institutions. He called on all donor countries to make support for Albania a priority target, since it was one of the least developed countries according to World Bank estimates. He also requested UNDP to make a larger allocation for the fifth cycle, since the Albanian Government would undertake to implement any projects that might be included under that head.

49. Mr. HALES (Guyana) said that UNDP technical assistance had frequently been the means of ensuring the success of economic recovery programmes in developing countries. The reorientation of the Programme in response to new challenges in technical cooperation was accordingly a significant step and the new approaches proposed would, in his delegation's view, optimize the effectiveness of UNDP at the country level. The five-point plan outlined by the Administrator in his introduction to the high-level debate was the fruit of mature reflection and the Council would wish to give the ideas contained in it the serious consideration they deserved at the next session.

50. In the context of the new programme approach, country programmes for the fifth cycle were aimed more and more at ensuring a positive interaction with national development objectives. The emphasis on national execution was also a positive development, but was nevertheless indissolubly linked with national management capacities; hence the importance of the Management Development Programme and the need to ensure that it was guaranteed adequate financing from the Special Programme Resources. Turning to new obstacles to human development, he commended UNDP for the "HIV and Development" programme and urged its continuation as a contribution to the campaign against the AIDS pandemic. His delegation extended its fullest support to the work being done to promote the contribution of women as a crucial factor in development. It noted with satisfaction that UNDP was aware of the link between the environment and development and was continuing the search for solutions to ecological problems at the national, regional and international levels. Guyana was committed to responsible management and utilization of its natural resources, its rain forests in particular, but it was essential that its developed partners should also recognize their responsibility, since increased efforts on one side should be accompanied by a commensurate increase in the resources provided by the other.

51. At the special session in February and at the current session, the Governing Council had examined requests for admission to the status of recipient countries, submitted by the previous Soviet Republics, and concern had been expressed at that time in regard to the problems which might be raised by the opening of UNDP field offices in those countries in view not only of the limited resources available but also of the very real risk that such a reorientation might have repercussions on the traditional recipients of official development assistance. His delegation fully accepted the universality of UNDP technical assistance, but where resources were limited, priorities had to be set, the criteria for assessment in the case at hand being the extent of the needs and the primacy of the least developed countries. The Council had to bear in mind that the needs of existing beneficiaries were no less urgent than they had ever been and that the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, for example, had failed for lack of funds, while the New Agenda for Africa was faced with the same threat and for the same reasons. Donor countries should accordingly increase development assistance across the board and UNDP should ensure the optimum use of those funds in the field. In any case, it was only right to bear in mind what the Administrator himself had said in his annual report for 1991 on the advantages enjoyed by former CMEA countries and the radical contrast between them and the developing countries.

52. Turning to the traditionally controversial Human Development Report, he said that his country fully accepted the concept of a people-oriented approach to development, since that had been the backbone of national policy from the time of independence onwards. Human development was none the less a multifaceted concept which could not be measured by a single yardstick and was not suspectible to simplistic quantification. The authors of the report had made laudable efforts to enlarge the field covered by their analysis, but it was a matter of some concern to see that UNDP, through the authors of the report, had sought to codify and index such complex and sensitive subjects as human rights and political freedoms. It would appear that UNDP, and the authors of the report, had exceeded their terms of reference and their mandate, encroaching on the spheres of responsibility of other bodies within the United Nations system. The 1992 report contained many positive elements on which to build, but Member States were entitled to expect that the Administration would take more account of their views and objections on a matter where it was essential above all to look for a compromise.

53. His delegation had noted that the Administrator's annual report had placed particular emphasis on the problems of Latin America, with only a passing mention of the CARICOM group of countries. It was to be hoped that that imbalance in emphasis did not reflect an equally unbalanced view of the development needs of those two subregions. His Government wished to acknowledge at the same time the prompt response of UNDP to its request for assistance to the Elections Commission, so as to ensure that the forthcoming elections would be seen to be demonstrably free and fair.

54. Mr. ALIKHAN (Deputy Director General, World Intellectual Property Organization) said that intellectual property had an important contribution to make to regional cooperation under changing global economic circumstances. The intellectual property system was in fact an integral part of economic

policy. It underpinned scientific and technical creativity and innovative development and it enabled countries to become more competitive and to win a greater share of international markets, in particular in the case of products having a significant technological component. The least developed countries, of course, still required assistance on legislation and institutional infrastructure, but, depending on the context, intellectual property regimes could contribute a great deal to the achievement of aims which coincided with those of UNDP.

55. Intellectual property was also a key element in economic management and reform programmes. The development of technological capacities, increasing the export orientation of small and medium-sized enterprises, the stimulation of joint ventures, the attraction of direct foreign investment and the creation of new products or the improvement of existing ones all depended to a large extent on the proper use of intellectual property regimes. During the past year WIPO had designed programmes in all the major regions of the world, enabling countries to exploit and harmonize their intellectual property systems in such a way as to contribute to the development not only of international trade, but also of the private sector.

56. There were two reasons for focusing on regional approaches. First, improving the trade and investment environment necessarily required multinational cooperation, which in turn promoted a greater consistency in national intellectual property regimes. Secondly, the intellectual property institutions, technical capacities and information, already available in some countries, could be pooled within a region, thus preventing duplication of effort and forming the basis of durable ties among nations constituting new markets. Against that background, WIPO was greatly concerned by the overall reduction in the resources allocated to multinational technical cooperation during the next cycle. Regional IPFs remained the only source of grant multilateral ODA for multilateral cooperation. In many developing countries, technical cooperation in policy-related areas, intellectual property matters in particular, should be funded from neutral sources.

57. Cooperation between WIPO and UNDP had always been excellent. UNDP had had a consistently good opinion of the performance of WIPO, which it had recently encouraged to undertake projects in Asia and Latin America. Prospects in Africa and in the Arab States remained bleak, however, and a great deal remained to be done - and should be done - in those regions. The new global situation needed a more dynamic attitude to multinational cooperation in the field of intellectual property. Such an approach would be of benefit to all countries and would have numerous multiplier effects. It was the view of WIPO that, among the new orientations for technical cooperation signalled by the Administrator in his annual report, space should be made for further innovation in an area of such enormous potential.

58. Mr. IVANOV (Russian Federation) said that although his country was successor to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, it had a quite different external policy consistent with the fundamental economic reforms which were designed to integrate Russia with the world market - hence the importance attached to cooperation with IMF, the World Bank, EBRD, EEC and UNDP. Russia wished to use the capacity of UNDP in order to facilitate reforms focused on the market economy. It had therefore requested the status of recipient

country, which called for three comments. First, such a status should enable it to overcome temporary difficulties which were the consequence of the dislocation of previous economic relationships and which would disappear with the establishment of new relationships. Second, Russia would continue to assist the developing countries through UNDP and even intended to expand such cooperation, including taking advantage of the experience of those countries in certain areas such as privatization. Finally, Russia would make no claim for a share of resources already programmed, or for any programme restructuring. It wished simply to have access to the skills of UNDP and to be able to use such of its mechanisms as were of special importance to countries in transition.

59. In his introductory statement, the Administrator had presented specific proposals for the improvement of the entire United Nations technical assistance system, but there were also other restructuring projects, particularly the Nordic project. Russia had always supported close coordination between all elements of the system but, because of the global character of the problems, it was necessary to await a political decision by the General Assembly. The Administrator had however been right to reaffirm the universal character of UNDP assistance as well as the legitimate right of the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union to benefit from such assistance. The Russian delegation approved the new orientations of technical cooperation set out by the Administrator in his annual report for 1991 (DP/1992/12), particularly the reformulation described in paragraph 11 of that document. The third Report on Human Development was a serious study which merited in-depth consideration. Its proposals and recommendations should be considered both by the Economic and Social Council and by the deliberative bodies of UNICEF and the specialized agencies. In that connection, special attention should be given to suggestions regarding a world summit on human development, an international fund to combat corruption, reform of official development assistance, use of peace dividends for development and new responsibilities in North-South cooperation.

60. Mr. SENE (Observer for Senegal), stressed the importance of the Administrator's statement on development in the world and his introduction of the Report on Human Development and suggested that those statements should be translated into the other working or official languages of the United Nations so that they could be given the publicity which they merited. His delegation welcomed the fact that the human dimension of development had been accepted by UNDP, because cultural values mobilized the potential creativity of people and their ability to adapt to the requirements of the modern age by preventing alienation and social disintegration as well as obscurantist or retrograde deviation. That was the context in which the prospective national development studies mentioned in the Administrator's report should be approached.

61. Concerning the Africa region, UNDP, in collaboration with ECA, the African Development Bank and the World Bank, would assist Governments to define the broad lines of their future policy in different areas of common action. In the context of programmes for popular participation to promote the multi-party system and the electoral process, UNDP had helped OAU to organize in Kampala, in May 1991, a seminar on security, stability, development and cooperation in Africa. On 25 May Senegal would organize a pan-African conference on the theme of democracy and the supervision of transition which

would be sanctioned by a so-called declaration of Dakar-Gorée and by the establishment of an observatory for transition in Africa. The island of Gorée was to be associated with that declaration as evidence of a dark period of four centuries of slavery and the slave trade which had been authoritatively recognized as one of the causes of Africa's backwardness. The proposal to build a Gorée-Almadies memorial marking the fraternal reconciliation of men and the rejection of racial discrimination had also been supported by OAU, the United Nations and UNESCO.

62. Among the activities undertaken by UNDP, his delegation had taken particular note of projects implemented in the fields of population and urban management, the fight against AIDS, the first meeting between UNDP, WHO and leaders of the pharmaceutical industry on improving the supply of medicines and vaccines in the world, the assistance of UNSO in connection with preparations for UNCED and the struggle against drought and desertification. His delegation also wished to stress the special importance which Senegal attached to the participation of women in development.

63. While the geopolitical landscape of the world was changing, the economic gulf between North and South continued to widen and the resulting imbalances represented one of the greatest current dangers. The future of the industrialized countries could not be dissociated from that of the poor countries. The question was therefore to transform relationships of economic domination into relations of partnership for shared development based on mutual advantage and reciprocal interests. On the issue of the environment, for example, the North, whose responsibility in that field was the greater, and the South should together make efforts at Rio to find realistic and effective solutions to the many problems which arose. The revival of development in the South was essential for the protection of the global environment because poverty was both the cause and a result of environmental degradation.

64. A system of international relationships must therefore be elaborated which would be better adapted to the current needs and realities of an interdependent world. It was for that reason that the South-South group on consultation and cooperation (G-15), had recently published a position paper on the new world order which stressed the need to combat marginalization, poverty and destitution in the developing countries, to establish peaceful relations in the world, to strengthen multilateral cooperation and to embark upon a constructive and continuing dialogue with the industrialized countries, in particular with the G-7, with a view to identifying the areas for priority action and proposing practical solutions. The Group considered that the role of the United Nations should be defined in terms of the democratization of international relations and the revitalization of multilateral structures dealing with security and disarmament, the environment and development, consistent with the principles of the Charter and international law.

65. Mr. DADZIE (Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) said that, while some developing countries had achieved considerable economic progress over the past several years, many others still faced the task of setting up a self-sustaining process of investment, growth and development which would enable them to take off. Primary responsibility lay with the developing countries, but the international economic environment

must help them in that task. Development and cooperation must therefore become a central concern in the 1990s. The extent and nature of such cooperation were likely to be influenced by political changes and by the lessons learned from four decades of development assistance. The emergence of financial needs in the East and the interruption of aid provided by that region together with the probable increase in the regionalization of assistance would force a rethinking of the modalities and effectiveness of United Nations system technical assistance programmes, which had often been considered inadequate.

66. There was increasing agreement on the need to maximize economic efficiency, to promote ecologically sustainable development, to ensure a more equitable distribution of economic progress and to develop human capacities, as expressed in the consensus reached at the Cartagena Conference in February. Participants in the Conference had established two priorities for the 1990s: the elimination of poverty and the acceleration of economic growth and social development in the developing world on a sustainable basis, through a new partnership for development based on the recognition of sovereign equality, mutual interest and shared responsibilities. There were many opportunities for cooperation in those areas with other parts of the United Nations system and, in particular, with UNDP.

67. At its eighth session, UNCTAD had also decided to pay greater attention to the examination of domestic policies and national experience as developing countries were called upon to mobilize their own efforts and would require more efficient institutional support and a more favourable economic environment. Aid would continue to play an important role in complementing those efforts and aid effectiveness must be considerably improved. That would require better coordination between donors, greater involvement of recipient countries, increased attention to costs and a review of the role of experts and of non-governmental organizations as well as the strengthening of the role of technical cooperation.

68. Above all aid should be a means of accelerating the integration of developing countries into the world economy and in that connection the removal of barriers limiting the exports of those countries could make a much greater contribution than could the current levels of ODA.

69. UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities sought to increase the ability of developing countries to adapt to the world economic environment and to generate increased flows of trade. They assisted those countries to prepare and apply economic policies which stressed the links between trade, technology and finance and the evolution of the external environment. They also assisted them to obtain a better understanding of international economic problems by facilitating their participation in international negotiations. The value of the programme which UNCTAD, in collaboration with UNDP, had set up to assist the participation of the developing countries in the Uruguay Round had been widely recognized and would be put to advantage during the fifth programming cycle. UNDP support had also enabled UNCTAD to cooperate closely with the World Bank in the field of debt management. The three organizations would be co-sponsoring a major programme to help debtor countries to improve their capacity to manage their external liabilities.

70. UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities were also helping the developing countries to increase the volume and efficiency of their trade by improving commercial procedures and the related information and management services. In that connection, UNCTAD had prepared the ASYCUDA programme which was currently being implemented in more than 50 countries. At its eighth session, UNCTAD had also proposed the organization of an action-oriented symposium on trade effectiveness to be held in 1994 which ought to lead to the adoption of practical measures and would give special priority to promoting the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in international trade.

71. In conclusion, he said that UNCTAD was aiding the developing countries to develop cooperation among themselves. At its eighth session, UNCTAD had approved the strengthening of technical cooperation, particularly within the framework of UNDP programmes. Experience had shown that there was a natural synergy between UNDP and UNCTAD and he was convinced that the particular approach of UNCTAD in the field of trade and development could make a substantial contribution to the restructuring of the United Nations system for development envisaged by the Administrator.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.